



Upper Elementary

Camden Field Trip

The UE classroom went to the Camden battlefield for a field trip. We got to learn about some of the soldiers that have had a special role in the Camden battle: for example, Colonel de Kalb. De Kalb was shot three times, stabbed eight times, and still survived three more days at the end! Then, we came back to the center to eat lunch. We saw a cat and named it Rev Kitty. This name was chosen by Jacob Rosmer. The same day we went, it was Ms. Erin's birthday and before we left, she got to shoot a cannon! The cannon did not have a cannon ball in it, but it did have gunpowder wrapped in tinfoil.

Community Lunch

UE had a breakfast community lunch for October. We had breakfast burritos, French toast, yogurt parfaits, fresh fruit and hashbrowns. The food was made by the students of UE. The menu was made by the students of UE.



A Monthly Look Into the Montessori School of Columbia Montessori Matters

Upcoming Events

- **November 7** - Next Level Information Session, 5-6pm
- **November 17** - Wreath Workshop, 4-6pm
- **November 21** - Sixth Grade Information Session, 5-6pm
- **November 21** - MSC hosts booth at Vista Lights, 6-8pm
- **November 27 to December 1** - Fall Break, No School
- **December 5** - "Screenagers" Showing at UU, 6:30-8:30pm

Grateful Gatherings: A Wreath & Centerpiece Workshop Celebrating Gratitude and Togetherness

Sunday, November 17, 4pm to 6pm

Grateful Gatherings is a Montessori School of Columbia Fall fundraising event, sponsored and led by MSC parent and sustainable floral designer, Meagan Salehin.

Join us for the Grateful Gatherings Workshop:

- Make-and-take your own wreath or centerpiece enjoy festive music, snacks, and friends
- Takes place on MSC campus
- **\$75 and is an adult-only event** for members of the MSC community
- Deadline to sign up is 8:00am on Monday, November 11, 2024

You may also pre-order premium wreaths and centerpieces:

- Several options of color scheme and materials
- Made for you and can be picked up in morning car line on **Friday, November 15**
- May be ordered by anyone who is able to pick up order in carline or front office
- Deadline to pre-order is 8:00am on Monday, November 11, 2024

Scan the QR Code to see MSC's Linktree with links to register for the Grateful Gatherings event or pre-order or to donate to MSC via Venmo.



Primary 3

The Autumn harvest was plentiful this October. Our harvest was the abundance of time and energy well spent with children and families on and off campus. As we move into November and center our hearts on gratitude for all that we have received, I want to recognize individuals that have done so much for us here at MSC.

Michael Drennan, thank you for all of your behind-the-scenes work in helping to orchestrate the necessary logistics that (I don't even understand but) I know are invaluable. I also want to thank Michael for providing book recommendations for our Book Fair. Thanks to him (and all of you who participated), we have a sweet sunflower work on our shelf with a new book, seeds that a child harvested, and a dried sunflower from one of our donated bouquets.

I also want to thank Lisa Wheeler. Lisa was here for Primary 3 when I had to leave for longer stretches of time during my training and has much more than a substitute and not simply a parent; Lisa is a Montessorian. A Montessorian (as I clarified to my 5k recently) is not a political party, but someone who extends grace and courtesy and cares for others and the world around them. MSC will not be the same without you, Lisa.

Thank you to Allison Goldstein for teaching us about the harvest celebration of Sukkot- the theme of opening our hearts and homes is a theme we have carried out into other conversations this month. I carried that theme into the last few days of the month where we also talked about Diwali and how light can overcome dark, and good can prevail. One way we opened our hearts to share was through the reciprocity of welcoming Sadie Whitehead into our Children's House. She was so generous in sharing her time, her sewing machine and cloth (thank you, Sadie!), and now we are making cloths to share with others too.

Over October, we decorated our classroom with tack-punched marigolds for Dia de los Muertos, we strung a pumpkin pasta garland and made paper chains for Sukkot, and we used paper and crushed red yeast rice for Diwali flower Rangolis. I believe November will be just as magical, but October was plentiful in love, creativity and collaborative learning across our primary campus and community at large.

All my love and gratitude,
Corey (and all of Primary 3)



Primary 2

Happy Fall, everyone. I hope you all are enjoying the Fall weather like we are. There are many great things we will be introducing to the children this month: the Botany Cabinet, seeds, and the Pumpkin Life cycle, to name a few. We will also start our study of Europe. The children love the flag- and map- making lessons of North America. We think they will enjoy learning about the continent of Europe and all the great places within.

The bright yellow blooms we observed last month have changed, and we now have two green pie pumpkins growing in our garden. They are the perfect size for picking but have not changed colors yet. We will be picking them this week before the weather destroys them. We will add one of them to our indoor observation tray and dissect the other. The sweet potatoes appear to be thriving.

There are many different things going on this month. Show and Tell is every Friday. Your child's item remains inside his or her bag until it is time for sharing, which is the only time it is allowed to be out. On Monday, November 11, we will learn about Veterans Day. If you have pictures of veterans in your family you would like your child to share with class, they can create a storyboard and bring it to share. Our Fall Break begins Wednesday, November 27, and we will return Monday, December 2.

We are starting to notice small objects disappearing from our lessons. Your child may accidentally bring home some of our Montessori materials. We ask that you please send them back in a ziplock bag. When a lesson is missing pieces, we must take it off the shelf until the material is complete again. Please be sure that the clothes you send to school are appropriate for the weather. Remember to send a water bottle with your child daily. When preparing lunch with your child, please limit excessive choices and foods that are difficult to eat. Thank you for partnering with us for your child's educational journey. We look forward to continuing to work with your family.

Respectfully,
Ms. Tonisha and Ms. Janeta

Dr. Maria Montessori said, "The role of the adult is not that of a teacher, but rather that of a guide who helps the child to learn for himself."

Primary 1

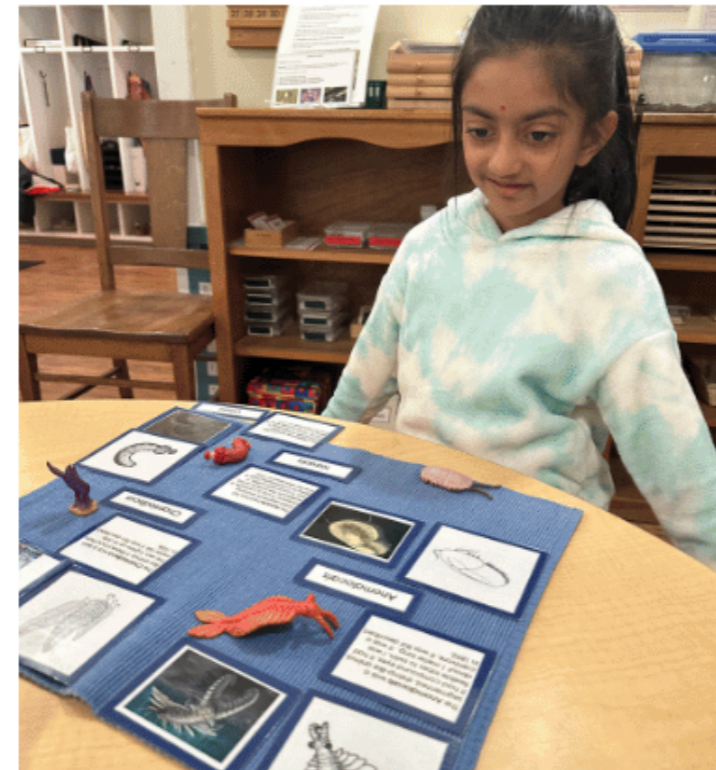
I would like to start by sharing my gratitude to our Primary One family for the support and dedication you provided throughout October! Beginning with making time to attend your child's conference, you helped to build and nurture the partnership we have established between classroom and home. You further strengthened this by attending Watch Me Work to see your child in action within our environment. Further, your involvement and participation in MSC's Montessori Mile and Fall Festival raised funds for our school and bolstered the integrity of our school community through fellowship, camaraderie, and conviviality. We have been enjoying the books donated to our classroom library during MSC's All Good Books Book Fair. Please accept this extremely heartfelt thank you, thank you, thank you. My heart has been filled by you all.

This month, our focus on respect and gratitude will continue through books and classroom discussions. We will be practicing acknowledgements and expressions of gratitude for even the smallest of things that bring us joy. Our community will continue to develop and nourish an appreciation for our environment and each other.

In addition, our classroom guinea pigs, Ramen and Coffee, are returning to our room! We are excited to have them back and have been working hard to understand and support the safe and loving environment necessary for them to thrive. The relationship between the student and classroom pet is beautiful and intricate. It nurtures and develops respect and responsibility as well as empathy. I am very grateful we can provide this experience and look forward to sharing more.

Thank you all for your continued support,
Ms. Sunshine

"History should not be taught as a collection of dates and places. But rather be approached to arouse gratitude and appreciation." – Dr. Maria Montessori



Magnolia

It is nice to have a chance to share with you once again all of the wonderful things that we have been doing over the past month.

Since we last shared, we have finished our Clock of Eons lessons, arriving at the Phanerozoic Eon (the one in which we're currently living!). We will unfold the Phanerozoic Eon and look closely at the different Geological Eras and Periods of time. We'll be more than ready to share with you our amazing discoveries. As geologists and geographers, we have finished studying the Composition of the Earth. We have studied all the way from the inner core to the exosphere, while also studying parts and types of mountains and volcanoes. To finish our studies of our planet, we covered the Rock Cycle, learning about Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic rocks and how they are formed.

In other areas of the classroom, students have continued studying the classifications of vertebrates, identifying their external parts and bodily functions. All levels are advancing in geometry. Third Graders are building their skills and proficiency in measuring angles of polygons using protractors. Second Graders are covering the Relationships Between Straight Lines and transitioning into identifying types of angles, while our First Graders are continuing to explore the etymology and characteristics of geometric shapes.

Each level of the Magnolia Room has completed a literature study. Third Graders enjoyed the first book of the *Bunnicula* series by Deborah and James Howe, *Bunnicula*, while Second Graders read either *A Mouse Called Wolf*, by Dick King-Smith, or *Amelia Bedelia Helps Out*, by Peggy Parish. First Graders enjoyed reading the short story *The Little Red Hen*, by Paul Galdone. Each group worked on literary elements such as setting, characters, conflict, resolution, story sequencing, and resolutions. We will continue with grade level literature study and will continue to share our experiences.

Our outside of the classroom adventures have taken us to the South Carolina State Museum, where we enjoyed a wonderful planetarium experience that made connections to the scientific theories we studied in our *First Great Lesson: The Creation of the Universe*. We have also visited the Richland County Public Library, where we were treated to a puppet show and allowed to explore and obtain books that piqued our curiosity.

All in all, Magnolians have settled into the school year and are making strides in their everyday learning. We can not wait to share with you all of the discoveries and experiences we will make over the next month. Until then, be well!

Palmetto

Palmetto class has been working through the research process with animal research projects. We enjoyed a day at the Richland County Public Library, where we were able to check out books related to our animal research topics. Some students have already completed their projects and are sharing them during our group meetings in the morning.

We recently began our study with the *Timeline of Life*, a beautiful material that encompasses much of Maria Montessori's Second Great Lesson- *The Coming of Life*. Students are being introduced to each period of time and finding ways to interact with the timeline in their own, unique ways.

Students have also been working diligently on their math fact practice. Each Friday, students are completing a timed fact quiz on either addition, multiplication, or subtraction to help build their mathematical fluency. We've had all students increase their fluency every week.

We recently received a wonderful donation of a keyboard, and students have thoroughly enjoyed their time outside practicing reading notes and playing familiar tunes. We are excited to see how their piano skills will progress in the next few months!

Enrichments



P.E. News

For PE this semester, the Lower Elementary students and Upper Elementary students now have two PE teachers: Ms. Gabbi and Mr. Elliot. This change has made things more smooth, and this lets us expand on what the students do since we have more supervision to watch over the playground. So far, we have been practicing basketball, 'capture the flag', and soccer. We think that everyone likes this change too.



Enrichments continued...

Spanish News

MSC Elementary students and staff were able to use their Spanish and order tacos for lunch from Taqueria La Cabaña. This was a celebration of our students' achievements in Spanish this semester as well as an opportunity to learn about and celebrate Dia de los Muertos and Mexican culture.

Music News

All Elementary students and choir class have already begun working on music for our end of year concerts! Lower Elementary worked together to write their own rhythmic compositions. Primary students have been learning about different musical instruments and how they sound, as well as famous composers like Mozart and Beethoven.



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